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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

VO, TIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/633,876

Applicant(s)

ASAAD ET AL.

Examiner

Tim T. Vo

Art Unit

2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 19-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 19-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

Art Unit: 2189

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

This application has been examined. Claims 1-16 and 19-23 are pending.

Response to Amendment

1. Objected claims (14-15, 18-19 and 21) as being dependent upon rejected base claims from previous office action have been withdrawn. New ground rejection shown below. This office action is made non-final.
2. Claims 1-5, 8-9 and 22-23 are rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Watts.
3. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watts.
4. Claims 10-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watts in view of Lim patent number 6,181,318 referred hereinafter "Lim".
5. Claims 16 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watts.
6. Claims 17-18 have been canceled, however claim 21 depends on 18. Correction is required. For examination purpose, examiner assumes claim 21 depends on claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Art Unit: 2189

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1-5, 8-9 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § **102(e)** as being anticipated by Watts patent number 6,341,320 referred hereinafter "Watts".

As for claim 1, Watts teaches a docking station for a mobile computer (see figure 2, docking station 10 and column 3 lines 65-67), comprising:

a dock housing for being coupled to a desktop display (see figure 2, docking station 10, monitor 15, wherein a portable computer 13 is docked into a desktop docking station 10, a monitor 15 is connected to the docking station) and including a first bus (see figure 6, bus 13d and column 4 lines 56-57, wherein the portable computer 13 discloses a serial bus as shown in the rear of the portable computer 13); and

a bridge coupled between the first bus and a second bus (see column 4 line 65 to column 5 line 1, wherein connector 13 is a bridge for connecting a serial bus 13d (first bus) of the portable computer 13d and expansion bus (second bus) of the docking station 10 as disclose in figures 53, 55), the first bus residing in the docking house and the second bus for being coupled to the mobile computer (see figures 4 and figures 53, 55, wherein the serial bus 13d is located inner portable computer 13 and the expansion bus is located in docking station 10); and

a docking sleeve attached to the dock housing (see figure 1, slot 11 for sliding the portable computer 13), wherein the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve and mates with a connector for a secondary bus (see figure 3, slot 11, portable computer 13 and column 4 line 67 to column 5 line 1, wherein the portable computer 13 slides through slot 11 of the docking station 10 and mates with connector 13).

As for claim 2, Watts teaches wherein the bridge comprises a serial bridge, which separates two sides of the bridge using a parallel connector (see figure see figure 6 connector 13, and column 4 lines 56-59).

As for claim 3, Watts teaches wherein the bridge comprises a serial bridge, which separates two sides of the bridge using a serial communication layer (see figure see figure 6 connector 13, and column 4 lines 56-59).

As for claim 4, Watts teaches wherein one of the first and second buses comprises a primary bus and the other of the first and second buses comprises a secondary bus (see figure 6, serial bus 13d, see figure 57, expansion bus, wherein there is a serial bus (primary bus) in the portable computer 13 is connecting to the connector 13 to the rear of the portable computer, there is an expansion bus (secondary bus) locates in side of the docking station10) and wherein the bridge comprises a separated bridge such that a first side of the separated bridge is place on the primary bus (see figure 6, connector 13 and serial bus 13d), and a second side of the separated bridge is implemented on the secondary bus or a bus extension (see figure 57, expansion bus locates inside of the docking station 10),

Art Unit: 2189

As for claim 5, Watts teaches converting a parallel bus data into a serial stream and back for the serial communication layer (see figure 6, connector 13 comprises connection to various parallel and serial peripherals such as printers and modems).

As for claim 8, Watts teaches a communication system, comprising:

a desktop display panel, including a graphics adaptor, for being operatively coupled to the mobile computer (see figure 2, monitor 15, figure 4, VGA monitor port);

a pointing device for providing inputs for display on the panel (see figure 4 mouse port);

a dock for mating with the mobile computer using a connection over the I/O bus to drive the graphics adaptor and the panel along with the pointing device (see figure 2, portable computer 13, slot 11, docking station 10, wherein the portable computer 13 slides through slot 11 to dock the portable computer to the docking station, wherein the docking station provides connection such as video card, mouse to the portable computer),

wherein computing power is provided by the mobile computer with access the user's data from the mobile computer (see column 4 lines 31-35, wherein the portable computer contained battery for power, thus after the portable computer is mated to the docking station, the portable computer 13 would be able to access the CD-ROM and the hard drive).

As for claim 9, Watts teaches the connection comprises one of a serial connection and a parallel connection over the I/O bus (see figure 6, connector 13

Art Unit: 2189

comprises connection to various parallel and serial peripherals such as printers and modems).

As for claim 22, Watts teaches a video adaptor for the display, the video adapter being connected to an input/output (I/O) bus and housed in a base of the display (see figure 4, VGA port).

As for claim 23, Watts teaches docking station includes a base, wherein a portion of the docking station is mounted onto the base (see figure 2, docking station 10), and the base includes a peripheral device for storing an additional application and data for when the mobile computer is used in a desktop mode (see figure 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watts.

As for claims 6-7, Watts does not expressly teach a serial stream is supported no more than four wires. "Official Notice" is taken that both concept and the advantages for providing a serial stream bus with 4 wires or less to Watts's system are well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to include a serial stream bus with 4 wires and 4 pins correspondingly to Watts would provide a simple bus structure. Further, the less wires are being utilized would reduce hardware cost.

Art Unit: 2189

9. Claims 10-15, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watts in view of Lim patent number 6,181,318 referred hereinafter "Lim".

As for claims 10, and 13-15, Watts teaches a computer system, comprising:

a mobile computer (see figure 2, portable computer 13);

a docking station for receiving the mobile computer (see figure 2, the portable computer 13 docked to the docking station 10);

a separated bridge having a first side coupled to the mobile computer and a second side is coupled to the docking station (see column 4 line 65 to column 5 line 1, wherein connector 13 is a bridge for connecting a serial bus 13d of the portable computer 13d and expansion bus of the docking station 10 as disclose in figures 53, 55);

a display panel coupled to the docking station and for being attached to the mobile computer via the docking station (see figures 2, 4, monitor 15), the first and second sides of the separated bridge being mated by one of a serial connector and a parallel connector (see figure 6, connector 13, wherein the connector 3 comprises serial and parallel connectors).

Watts does not expressly teach LCD panel coupled to the docking station. However, Lim teaches a LCD panel (see figure 1, LCD panel 60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the LCD panel 60 of Lim to docking station 10 of Watts

Art Unit: 2189

because the LCD panel provides high resolution thereby producing clear vision for users (see column 6 lines 40-48 of Lim).

As for claim 11, Watts teaches the first side of the separated bridge is placed in the mobile computer and the second side is placed in the docking station (see figure 6, connector 13).

As for claim 12, Watts teaches the mobile computer comprises primary bus and an extended bus and an extended bus is the docking station function as a secondary bus (see column 4 line 65 to column 5 line 1, wherein connector 13 is a bridge for connecting a serial bus 13d (first bus) of the portable computer 13d and expansion bus (second bus) of the docking station 10 as disclose in figures 53, 55), and wherein the secondary bus drives adaptors for peripheral components including any of a high resolution graphics component and a disk drive (see figure 4, VGA adaptor, further in figure 1 discloses a hard drive and disk drive).

As for claim 19, Watts teaches the base comprises a modular component of the display (see figure 2, monitor 15).

10. Claims 16 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watts.

As for claim 16, Watts does not expressly teach wherein the docking station selectively providing adjustable to accommodate a variety of different sized mobile computer. "Official Notice" is taken that both concept and the advantages for providing selectively adjustable docking station to receive different sized mobile computer to Watts's system are well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to

Art Unit: 2189

include adjusting sizes of portable computers into the docking station to Watts because docking station of Watts would be universal to accommodate variety of different portable computers from different vendors.

As for claims 20-21, Watts does not expressly teach wherein the docking station has a cooling fan. "Official Notice" is taken that both concept and the advantages for providing a cooling fan to Watts's docking station are well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to install a cooling fan to Watts because it would prevent the docking station from overheating and damage to electronic components.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim T. Vo whose telephone number is 703-308-5862. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2100.



Tim T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2189

T.V
February 28, 2003